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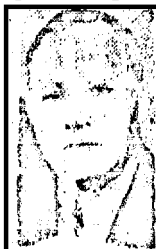
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Allen-Scott Report

Security Council To Review China

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CPYRGHT



Mr. Allen

counsel is needed.

U. S. authorities have more than a casual interest in Spain's investigation of the Madrid murder of Mohammed Khider, Algerian opposition leader.

For several weeks prior to his assassination, Khider met with U. S. intelligence agents both in Spain and France, reputedly conveying information on Russian

President Johnson is setting up a special National Security Council committee to "review" all intelligence relating to Red China.

The turbulent and seemingly chaotic situation there is now deemed by the President and his top advisers the most crucially important foreign problem facing them. Therefore, to assist them in reaching potentially fateful decisions, the President has established the special National Security Council committee as President Kennedy did during the Cuban crisis.

Designated the "Executive Committee" (Ex-Com), it consists of four members headed by Secretary Rusk.

The others are Defense Secretary McNamara, Central Intelligence Director Richard Helms and Dr. Walt Rostow, special White House assistant on foreign affairs. Rusk and McNamara served on the Kennedy "Ex-Com."

Immediately following establishment of the special "China panel," the President gave it a series of urgent assignments, as follows:

- What faction or factions control China's nuclear arsenal; are any of the atomic weapons or devices in the hands of elements opposing the Mao Tse-tung clique?
- What is the extent of actual fighting between rival factions, and do conditions for extensive civil war really prevail?
- What impact, if any, would large-scale strife between the rival factions have on the Vietnam conflict?
- What are the likely Russian attitude and policy toward China in the event of large-scale civil war?

Particular emphasis is to be placed by these intelligence-gathering flights on changes in the disposition of Chinese army units, particularly those in southern China, on the borders with Russia and opposite the Nationalist stronghold of Formosa. Information on these matters is to be reported to him immediately.

Still being discussed is whether attempts should be made by low-flying U. S. planes to photograph reported civil strife in various large Chinese cities, or in the vicinity of the atomic plants and Canton areas.

This was proposed by CIA Director Helms because of the lack

of "hard information" and "eyewitness reports" of alleged fighting in cities such as Nanking.

Creation of the special Security Council committee clinaxed a series of high-level inner council discussions on the increasingly hectic and baffling Chinese situation.

One of these backstage meetings was devoted almost entirely to what might happen to China's growing nuclear stockpile, and to the possibility of its being used in the power struggle if it develops into full-scale civil war.

At one point, the President somberly remarked that never before in history had a country possessing nuclear weapons been confronted with the possibility of full-scale civil strife.

"Our lack of information about what is going on concerns me more than anything else," said the President. "It gives me a nightmare to even think about it. There must be ways to resolve this so decisions can be based on accurate information."

While the special panel on China is confined to Rusk, McNamara, Rostow and Helms, heads of other agencies, including the

preparations to make Algeria an intermediate range ballistic missile base in 1967.

This secret information is deemed by some U. S. authorities as the most important so far obtained regarding Soviet plans in Algeria.

According to informed sources Khider, who had his own underground in Algeria, furnished U. S. agents full details on the proposed location of the Soviet missile bases and scheduled dates when these weapons were to be installed. Presumably this is to be done in June and July.

Two weeks before the February visit to Algeria of Communist party boss Brezhnev was announced, Khider notified U. S. officials of this plan. His last warning, delivered the day before he was slain, was that Algeria's President Houari Boumediene was firmly in the Soviet camp and had agreed to make his country a Russian missile base.